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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Confirmation No.: 4033

Hirotooshi MAEGAWA, et al.

Art Unit: 3621

Serial No.: 09/148,832

Examiner: J. Hayes

Filed: September 4, 1998

Docket No.: 103203-08003

For: NETWORK SYSTEM, DATA DISTRIBUTION METHOD, AND  
RECORDING MEDIUM ON WHICH DISTRIBUTION USE DATA IS  
RECORDED AND WHICH CAN BE READ BY COMPUTER

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**RECEIVED**

MAY 06 2003

May 1, 2003

Dear Sir:

**GROUP**

Prior to continued examination of the above-identified application, please amend  
the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 18, 35 and 52 as follows:

18. (Four Times Amended) A data distribution method in a network having a  
plurality of connected nodes for suitable distributing any content as a transactable  
product, comprising:  
sending through the network